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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,068	07/14/2003	Ippei Nakamura	Q76351	4323
23373	7590	01/27/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				CHOI, LING SIU
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1713		

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/618,068	NAKAMURA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ling-Siu Choi	1713

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3 and 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 4-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/14/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Response to the Restriction Requirement filed November 7, 2005. Claims 1 and 4-17 of Group I were elected **without traverse**.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 7, 9, 11, and 13-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 7, line 3; claims 9, 11, and 13-15, line 2 "heterocycle" is suggested to be changed to --heterocyclic hydrocarbon--.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4-9, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526).

claim			A resin composition comprising	
3	2	1	A	an alkali-soluble resin
			B	an infrared absorbing agent
			C	a thiol compound
wherein a solubility of the resin composition in an alkaline aqueous solution				
is changed by exposure with an infrared laser beam				
wherein the thiol compound can tautomerize as follows.				
$-C(SH)=X- \Leftrightarrow -C(=S)-X(H)-$				
wherein X = nitrogen atom or methine group				

Kenji et al. disclose a masking material as ink or coating, comprising a -SH group-containing organic sulfur compound with acid stability and heat resistance, an amine compound, and phenolic and/or rosin type alkali soluble resin, wherein the -SH group-containing organic sulfur compound is listed in Table 1 (page 142). Thus, the present claims are anticipated by the disclosure of Kenji et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526) in view of Miura et al. (JP 11-020318 A).

The disclosure of Kenji et al. is adequately disclosed in paragraph 4 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The difference between the present claims and the disclosure of Kenji et al. is the requirement of the specific -SH group-containing organic sulfur compounds used in the composition.

Miura et al. disclose -SH group-containing sulfur compounds represented as formulae (2), (4), and (8) (page 3). Since formula (8) is also disclosed by Kenji et al., -SH group-containing sulfur compounds represented by formula (2) or (4) is equivalent to and exchangeable with the one represented by formula (8). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use -SH group-containing sulfur compound represented by formulae (2) or (4) in the disclosure of Miura because of its equivalence to and exchange with formula (8) and thereby obtain the present invention.

7. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526) in view of Iguchi et al. (US 4,436,805).

The disclosure of Kenji et al. is adequately disclosed in paragraph 4 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The difference between the present claims and the disclosure of Kenji et al. is the requirement of the specific -SH group-containing organic sulfur compounds used in the

composition.

Iguchi et al. disclose -SH group-containing organic sulfur compound represented in the general formula (I), which can be a compound of formula (5) or (8) (col. 3, lines 40 and 60). It is noted that -SH group-containing organic sulfur compound can be represented by the general formula (I). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use -SH group-containing sulfur compound represented by formulae (5) or (8) in the disclosure of Iguchi and thereby obtain the present invention.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ling-Siu Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-1098.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reach on 571-272-1114.

Ling-Siu Choi
LING-SUI CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 20, 2005